



September Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 6pm
Zoom Video Conference

Vestry Members Present

Kristen Austin
Clara Berg
Carrie Davis
The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative
Karla Koon, Diocesan Member
Micah Kurtz, Diocesan Member
Julia Logan, Senior Warden
Peter McClung, Junior Warden
Emily Meeks
Kari Nasby
Michael Perera
Marjorie Ringness
Robert Stevens
Walter Stuteville, Junior Warden
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean

Vestry Members Absent

Roberta Kanive

Officers Present

Barbara Erickson, Clerk
Re Knack, Chancellor
Phil Lloyd, Treasurer

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Executive Assistant to the Dean
Jim Pannell, Director of Operations

Guests

John Hoerster, Chancellor Emeritus

Call to Order, Prayer, Review of Agenda

Steve opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:00PM.

Consent Agenda

The Vestry approved the August 25, 2020 meeting minutes as amended.

Special Order of Business

Updated timeline for the exploratory process of the redevelopment of the St. Nicholas property was provided by John.

- October 9, 2020 – deadline for requests for interest for developers. Meriwether Advisors had 30+ serious responses to the Request for Interest. Meriwether has been asked to broaden criteria to include entities representing affordable/low income housing.
- October 27 Vestry meeting – results of the Saint Mark's Committee and Meriwether summit meeting will be presented to the Vestry to determine if we will proceed. Request for Proposals will be issued to those developers interested.
- Mid-November Parish Meeting – provides more details about possible options to the parish.
- November 24 Vestry meeting – recommendation of the Committee will be brought to the Vestry to determine whether to proceed.

A side discussion occurred expressing interest in the Nehemiah Initiative which supports low-income/affordable housing. <http://Nehemiahinitiativeseattle.org/>.

OLD BUSINESS

Reopening Planning Guide

The Dean reported the Reopening Planning Guide has been reviewed and approved by Diocesan Chancellor. The final Guide can be found at: <https://saintmarks.org/reopening-planning/>.

Outdoor services will continue to be held, the Blessing of the Animals will take place on Saturday, October 3 in two forms: a drive through blessing and a 4:30 service on the front lawn. Baptism are scheduled for All Saints' Day either outside or if the Cathedral is reopened around the font. Ministry groups are meeting outside in a variety of ways per the planning guide. They are worship oriented and require registration.

Solarc Recommissioning Work for Carbon Reduction

Jim Pannell reported two small items identified by Solarc: 1) cancellation of leases for two hot water heaters that have been leaking for an undetermined timeframe. They have been replaced with more carbon neutral water heaters and 2) another water heater that does not serve anything, has been decommissioned. Currently working on items in Thomsen Chapel, Bloedel Hall, Leffler House, and St. Nicholas Building. The return on investment for these projects is anticipated to be two years.

Cathedral Archives Update

Jim reported that the Archives will be located in the Youth Room (formerly the Child Care Center) which has been relocated to Cathedral House Room 209. An intern, Alexa Minasian from the University of Washington, has been hired for one quarter (20 hours per week) to work with Diane Wells and Julia Logan. Clara Berg volunteered to be an advisor.

Consideration of Duwamish Acknowledgments

Robert, Re, Michael, and staff met last week to lay the groundwork to better understand their history and reestablish our relationship with the Duwamish. Re reported the Annual Duwamish Tribe Gala & Native Art Auction will be held on October 10 from 5:00 – 6:30pm. This will be a virtual evening with time for words, song, dance, and other exclusive performances by tribal members. If you are interested in attending, contact Re Knack for tickets. Marjorie also recommended the book: *The River that Made Seattle: A Human and Natural History of the Duwamish* written by BJ Cummings.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Appointments

The Nominating Committee is convened and appointed by the Vestry annually to recommend nominees to the vestry and Diocesan Convention delegates who are elected at the Parish Annual Meeting. Co-chairs Julia Logan and Lynne Markova have named Peter McClung, Michael Perera, John Selberg, and Carrie Davis to the committee.

The Vestry approved the appointment of Julia Logan and Lynne Markova as co-chairs and Peter McClung, Michael Perera, John Selberg, and Carrie Davis as members of the Nominating Committee.

Vestry Support for McLaurin Ordination

Steve reported that Malcolm is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate in December; and the vestry is asked to authorize this Letter of Support consistent with the Letters of Support extended with his being a candidate and postulant and the next step toward his ordination.

The Vestry authorized the Letter of Support for Ordination to the Diaconate for Malcolm McLaurin.

St. Nicholas Donor Acknowledgment

A small celebration for the LLC Partners, who have gifted their portion of their LLC ownership of the St. Nicholas Building to Saint Mark's, is to be held on October 25. A plaque in their honor will be placed on the St. Nicholas Building.

Vestry Resignation

Roberta Kanive is resigning from the vestry due to health and personal reasons. The Executive Committee, given the lateness of the year and all the conversations being held, suggested waiting until the Annual Meeting to fill the vacancy. The Vestry agreed that January 2021 would be an appropriate timeframe to appoint the replacement, but a variety of ways to address the process of filling that vacancy was then discussed. The final outcome being the Nominating Committee will be asked to find a candidate who would be interested in filling the one-year term rather than through the election process.

The Vestry approved the motion that the Nominating Committee will be asked to identify a person willing to serve the one-year term (ending in January 2022), and present that name to the Vestry separate from the election at the Annual Parish Meeting in January 2021.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- Looking forward to working with intern Alexa, and Judy Andrews and Julia will be working with Diane Wells on archive policies.
- Planning has begun for the Zoom Spirited Women's Retreat in November. Planning committee great ideas for the retreat and recommends attending.
- Kudos to Creation Care and Faith Formation for *Wonders of Creation* series.
- The September 7 edition of *The Seattle Times* has a story on the Bunny Wilburn Home, where the Noel House women are now living. Good place for them to be.

Dean

- Racial Justice work continues.
- Interfaith pre-election vigil, co-sponsored by Saint Mark's, is scheduled for November 1 and available via live stream. Faith, prayer, and contemplation with Pastor Carrey Anderson (First AME), Fr. Michael Ryan (St. James Cathedral), Rabbi Daniel Weiner (Temple De Hirsch Sinai), and Steve, along with others.
- Planning for Advent and Christmas services has begun with initial planning focused on livestreaming; September 30 forum on "Surprise and Its Role in the Spiritual Journey"; sent funds from the Dean's Discretionary Funds in support of relief work in Beirut – All Saints Episcopal Church to help with COVID challenges in Jerusalem and the Episcopal Dioceses of Jerusalem with funds also to Episcopal Relief and Development for relief for victims of the wildfires and hurricanes.
- Seattle Service Corps' seven women are now home, and an outside house blessing was done.
- Files of Note
 - Thank you letter from Archbishop Suheil
 - St. Nicholas Plaque Mock-up.

Ministry/Committee Structure and Reports

Worship and Music

Walter: Staff and volunteers met via Zoom to plan the services through the end of the year despite the unknowns of being open or not. Positive energy exists and they are trying to take advantage of what can be done and moving forward. Different from our traditional in-person services, but a “being together experience” even if online.

Faith Formation

Youth/Children, Kari: Talked with Rebekah Gilmore, Interim Youth Director and found her energetic with good ideas – for their first virtual meeting, the youth will be baking chocolate chip cookies.

Adult Faith Formation, Emily: thought and intention toward timely offerings and ensuring offerings are aligned with Mutual Ministry goals.

Justice (JMCT)

Micah: Guest speaker, Jeffrey Boyce, spoke on HB754, its impact on Tiny Houses and overnight parking spaces as well as homelessness and advocacy.

Creation Care

Marjorie: Thanked to Vestry members who signed up on Carbon Tracker and if you have questions, contact Ruth Mulligan who is interested in feedback. This is the first step is to measure your carbon footprint, then determine what you can reduce and then offset to a carbon offset fund – currently different programs are being researched as well as a fund to be held at Saint Mark’s. Survey will be developed to get idea of what the congregation wants, the level of awareness of climate change, and to understand the awareness and how big of a problem is it. Appreciate the Carbon Reduction Initiative for the campus and Faith Formation’s two forums on the topic.

Communications

Michael: Talking with Cara Peterson about a podcast interview series talking with People of Color (POC) at the cathedral to hear their voices raised and heard about being a POC in a community of white people. Greg Bloch has created a Get Involved page on website to learn more about the ministries at Saint Mark’s; live chats are available during the Sunday liturgy as a way to engage the people at home; unexpected benefit from the chats is the ability help people who are having communication connection problems. Fall Rubric will be published online.

Stewardship

Robert: October 4 is the official launch of the appeal, *One Body—A Cloud of Witnesses*; materials are ready, and all forms of media are being used for promotion.

Finance

Peter: Projections through the end of year, due to COVID, will see an income shortfall, but the \$156,000 PPP loan helps. Budget process has started for 2021, with a reduction in income similar to what is reflected with this year. Phil is reviewing the designated accounts, revision of some restricted accounts for reallocations due to changes in the status of those accounts.

Phil: Issue can be that the pledge base is not growing as quickly.

Facilities

Walter: Removal of the unhealthy tree near the bus shelter will be happening and requires the partial closing of 10th Avenue. Removal is necessary for health of the remaining trees.

Diocesan Members of the Vestry

Micah, St. Columba, Kent: St. Francis celebration will be a virtual video of pets and/or their plants.

Karla, St. Andrew’s, Seattle: Pet parade video requesting photos be sent in; purchased another house; walking tour of St. Andrews property “Holy Trouble Makers of Unconventional Things” continues through the end of the month; in the middle of Adult Formation series.

Canon to the Ordinary

Arienne: working on diocesan stuff, transitions making difficult times for clergy; convention planning.

Cathedral Foundation

Steve: Foundation received \$50,000 estate gift from Tim Watterson. Gift is restricted to support the cathedral grounds.

Reflection: What was intercultural about our agenda and conversations today?

- Support for Malcolm – will be first American Black man to be ordained a priest in this diocese.
- Michael's People of Color communication project.
- Option with St. Nicholas.
- Looking at possible partnership with African American churches to come together as a full Christian community.
- Duwamish work with tribe.
- Discussion on vestry opening.
- Silence is okay on Zoom meetings.
- Roberta's feelings as she resigned from the vestry.
- How do we as a group grieve the losses/resignations?

Check out & Closing Prayer

Checkouts were given, and Carrie gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Executive Assistant